Teething...

Take Care of Your Child's Teeth

1. Taking good care of your child's teeth is important- especially during infancy

2. Babies still need good mouth care- even if they don't have teeth:
   - ♥ Clean your baby's mouth every day- if no teeth are present use your finger and a wet washcloth
   - ♥ Teething usually starts around 6-8 months- use a toothbrush to clean your child's teeth as they appear and make sure your child's teeth are brushed everyday (children will need help until they are about 5 years old)
   - ♥ Going to bed with a bottle of milk or juice can cause tooth decay and should be avoided
   - ♥ Sore gums, drooling, and fretfulness are common among babies who are teething
   - ♥ Babies will want to put everything in their mouth when they are teething- keep them safe by giving them things to bite on like teething rings or biscuits (if your child has a latex allergy or you are using latex precautions, make sure teething toys have NO latex in them)
   - ♥ Don't give your baby teething powder or syrup unless you talk with you health care provider first
   - ♥ Talk with your health care provider if your baby becomes very fretful and has a fever- there may be something else going on

3. Take your child to the dentist every 6 months starting around the age of 3 years old- baby teeth decay quickly so frequent check-ups are needed

4. Your child's baby teeth help your child to speak, make room for permanent teeth, promote jaw growth, and give your child a beautiful smile- take good care of them